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Campaigner sends alternative scheme to protect vital service



Keep The Horton General protesters fighting to maintain services at tBanbury's maternity unit

NEW PLAN FOR MATERNITY UNIT

A CAMPAIGNER is hoping an alternative plan will save the threatened maternity services at Horton General Hospital.

Val Ingram, one of the driving forces behind campaign group, Keep the Horton General, has sent an alternative proposal to stop the impending downgrades at the maternity unit.

She has contacted bosses at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to challenge its Contingency Plan that will see the unit reduce from a consultant-led to a midwife-led facility.

The trust's measures mean mums at high risk will have to go to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford to give birth. OUH took the decision to downgrade the unit without any public consultation after it struggled to fill vacant posts, although it says the change would only be temporary.

Mrs Ingram said: "I feel very passionate about keeping these services. There is a serious risk to life, childbirth is not textbook, it can be extremely complicated. These measures, particularly the transport issues, have a lot of women concerned that they will lose their baby in the back of an ambulance."

Her proposals suggest having a caesarean service at the maternity theatre at

Georgina Campbell
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Horton will the service reductions are in place, which can be reviewed when the consultant-led unit is reinstated.

The plan calls on changing the use of several of the rooms at the Horton.

It reads: "There is an existing fully operational and functional maternity theatre at Horton negating the expense and short term upheaval of hiring and running a mobile operating theatre at the John Radcliffe as proposed in the contingency plan."

"This proposal requires no expensive costs to be incurred for the movement of equipment or any relevant lengthy stock take process, as per the contingency plan to be undertaken."

The plan also proposes to retain senior midwives trained to assist with caesareans. It adds: "Maintaining the majority of the midwifery staffing and all the maternity support workers at Horton to staff maternity theatre, the unit and post-natal ward will also negate the expense to be incurred by the trust for the petrol and travel expenses of staff who have been told will need to move to the John Radcliffe Hospital, can claim. For some this is

a forced 113-mile round trip per shift as opposed to a 70-mile round trip currently."

Paul Brennan, director of clinical services at the trust, said he had received the plans to provide an elective caesarean section service for women at the Horton. He added: "We are discussing it with clinical, and most importantly obstetric specialists, to assess its feasibility. Patient safety will be our overriding concern and once we have had a chance to assess the viability of this proposal, we will publish our response on our website."

The trust hopes to reverse the temporary service changes by March 2017.



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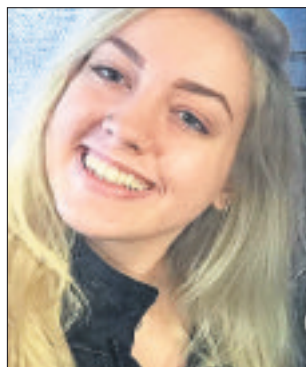
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Tributes to teenager in car accident



Ferne Campbell

THE parents of 19-year-old Ferne Campbell have paid tribute to their "beautiful, vibrant and loving" daughter after she died following a crash in Banbury.

The teen was travelling on the A361 near Williamscoate, just north of Banbury, when the silver Toyota Yaris she was in hit a tree on Monday, September 5.

Thames Valley Police said the crash happened about 9.55am and Ms Campbell, who lived in Northamptonshire, later died from her injuries.

Parents Peter and Ondine Campbell have issued a tribute through the police describing their pride towards Ms Campbell.

It said: "As Ferne's parents, we wish to pay tribute to our only child: Our beautiful, vibrant and loving daughter.

"She was our life and we were, and still are, immensely proud of her.

"We ask that any parent reading these words will hold their child when next they see them and tell them how much they are loved."

Anyone with information regarding the collision is asked to contact police on 101.

Post Office workers tell of ordeal in armed raid

STAFF at a post office told yesterday how they feared for their lives after a robber threatened them with a gun and demanded cash.

Elsie Allen and Nicola Birch were going about their work in Easington Post Office when Danny Walsh walked in and robbed them.

Mrs Allen, 72, recounted the "frightening" ordeal after Walsh, 25, was sentenced to six years behind bars at Oxford Crown Court.

Mrs Allen, whose daughter Debra Dumbleton is the post mistress, said Walsh "got what he deserved".

She said he was "aggressive and abusive" during the raid on July 31.

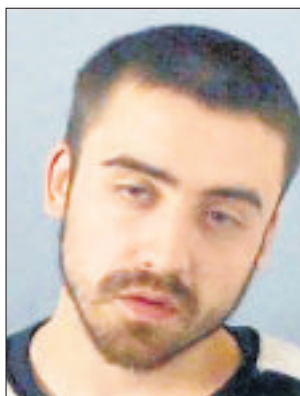
The grandmother-of-two, who was working with Ms Birch, 26, added: "It was very frightening. I'm 72 and that's the second armed robbery here. It was not nice at all.

"It was the young girl's first one and I was so scared for her because she was the one he confronted when he came in."

Walsh entered the post office in Horton View, Banbury, at about 3.20pm on Saturday, July 30.

Mrs Allen, said she was in the secure area at the back of the shop and came out after hearing Walsh demanding the cash.

She added: "He was not violent, he was just aggressive. I could hear this so I came running out from the secure area, thinking it was just an



Armed raider Danny Walsh

abusive customer.

"We could see his face. He made no attempt to cover himself up. I went rushing out and he was pointing the gun at Nicola.

"I just wanted to protect Nicola. I didn't want anything to happen to her. It does affect you a lot.

"I think it's possible he could have used it [the gun]. Nicola feels bad about giving him the money, but she did exactly the right thing.

"If she had been stubborn and told him he was not having it, I really do

believe he would have used that weapon."

Walsh, of now fixed abode, fled the scene after taking the cash.

Mrs Allen, who has worked in post offices for 20 years added: "He said 'it's all right, I'm sorry' or something like that and ran off."

Walsh pleaded guilty at Oxford Crown Court on Monday.

He was jailed six years for robbery and four years for possession of a firearm, to run concurrently.

Walsh was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £170.

Det Con Mark Personius said Walsh was an "extremely dangerous offender" who was arrested four days after the armed robbery in Brighton.

Mrs Allen, of Middleton Cheney, thanked the "fantastic" customers who had rallied round in support of the post office.

She added: "I absolutely love it here. We have had so many good wishes. There are a lot more good people in the world than bad people.

"We are relieved. The police officers were brilliant. They were here within minutes and had the helicopter out and the armed officers.

"The newspapers and media put out appeals for him, which I'm sure helped a great deal."

Action plan gives extra protection to animals

BATS, swifts and butterflies in North Oxfordshire are set to get extra protection.

Cherwell District Council's executive committee approved the 2016-2018 Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan on Monday.

The authority will support education about biodiversity for children through its partnership with the Warriner School Farm; improve residents' access to nature through its work with the local wildlife trust, and develop more detailed guidance for the protection and improvement of the natural world through the planning process.

Councillor Tony Iott, lead member for public protection, said the plan would give protected species extra security.

"Having a diverse range of animal species in the district gives us more resilient ecosystems, more fertile soils and increased educational and recreational opportunities," he said.

"A healthy and stable natural environment is vitally important to economic prosperity and the district's desirability as a place to live, work and visit.

"We have done good work to protect the district's wildlife in the past year.

"Some recent highlights include the establishment of a third community bat box project in the district, funding towards community engagement initiatives in the Wild Banbury project based in Spiceball Park, and maintaining up-to-date information about important habitats and species."

He said the purpose of the plan is to demonstrate the council's compliance with its obligations to protect and improve the natural environment under European and domestic law, and under the national planning policy framework.

Company hailed for care of its workers

A HOME assistance company based in Banbury has been named one of the country's top three for supporting its employees' work-life balance.

National firm HomeServe is based in Southam Road and offers emergency insurance as well as domestic repairs such as plumbing work.

It came third in the whole of

the UK in a study by independent company Glassdoor, rating companies out of five based on employees' feedback.

In the end, HomeServe gained a score of 4.2, putting it ahead American Express, BP, Unilever, John Lewis, Rolls Royce and Apple. Company spokesman Greg Reed said: "We believe if you take care of your people they

will take care of your customers and the rest will take care of itself. This means creating a culture where people genuinely enjoy coming to work every day because they feel engaged and feel what they do really makes a difference."

Employees cited flexible working, events and regular fundraising and volunteering.

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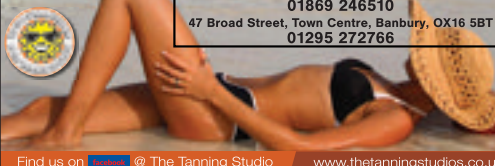
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Mars castaway's mission was way out of this world

Volunteer spent a year simulating space conditions in dome

Michael Race
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HE may have been cut off from the world for a year, but one Oxfordshire-born space engineer says it was worth missing out on 365 days on Earth as he bids to be one of the first to land on Mars.

Andrzej Stewart spent a year in a cramped, inflatable dome in Hawaii to simulate what life would be like on Mars for astronauts.

The 34-year-old was one of six volunteers who returned to reality last week after 365 days away from outside world.

And when asked if he would like to make the journey to the Red Planet, he replied: "absolutely".

Mr Stewart, 34, who was born in Banbury, said he found it strange coming back into normal life to find out how much he had missed. He added: "It's really strange being isolated from your friends and family, the only people you see are your five mates."

"You cannot speak to anyone on the outside, like the conversation we are having now would take days to happen. "The time absolutely flew by, but I do not know things on the planet that have happened over the last 12 months."

"I'm coming back not knowing about the latest jokes, or what music is popular – there have been cultural differences."

Mr Stewart, who was largely brought up in the United States, was selected from a pool of "astronaut-like" candidates and performed tasks such as geological field work and exercises in self-sufficiency.

The volunteers were paid just £12,000 and survived on freeze-dried food, with their electronic communications to the outside world delayed by 20 minutes to replicate how long it would take to communicate between Mars and Earth.

The experiment was funded by Nasa and operated by the University of Hawaii. Research focused on the behavioural and psychological effects of



Chief engineer Andrzej Stewart is kitted out during his simulated Mars mission

Photo by Sheyna Gifford

long-duration isolation. It is hoped this will allow Nasa to tackle one of the big problems of sending humans deep into space – the ability of astronauts to get along together in a small environment for long periods of time.

The space engineer said he managed to stay sane by drinking tea, eating Jammie Dodgers and playing guitar.

He added the experiment was an opportunity for him to gain vital experience ahead of working in outer space.

Mr Stewart said: "It's really strange being isolated from your friends and family, the only people you see are your

five mates. One thing I did like as a result of the isolation was that we had the ability to focus completely on our job."

"I didn't hear about anything negative, I heard nothing about wars or crime going on in the world. I could just focus on science."

"My wife also works for NASA so she totally understands why I would want to do this. It's part of my goal."

"Being in a simulator you get to try stuff that you may not in space. This project was a big driver for me to understand what it's like to be an astronaut."

Amazon delivers jobs

MORE THAN 180 jobs will be created when Amazon opens a new delivery station at Banbury this month.

The online giant will employ more than 30 people directly, including security staff.

But it will also use 15 independent delivery companies who are hiring more than 150 drivers to deliver parcels to the Banbury area seven days a week under the Amazon Logistics operation.

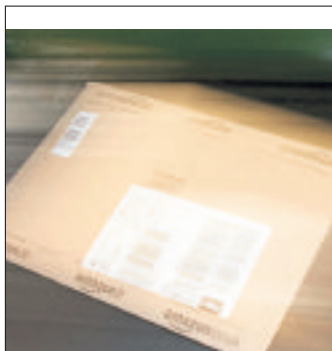
Amazon Logistics UK director Jamie Stephenson said: "Amazon Logistics adds capacity and flexibility to Amazon's delivery network, enabling us to meet the delivery needs of customers."

"Amazon Logistics is also helping independent local delivery companies to grow their businesses by providing state of the art technology to deliver Amazon orders."

More jobs will also be created in the north of the county with the opening of a Premier Inn hotel in Chipping Norton.

On the site of the old Castle View care home site and former ambulance station site on Spring Street, the hotel is expected to offer up to 30 vacancies.

Parent company Whitbread is already advertising for an assistant operations



Amazon is moving to Banbury

manager for Chipping Norton.

The firm already has six hotels in Oxfordshire – at Abingdon, Didcot, Witney, Bicester, Oxford Business Park and Banbury.

There are plans to open another 200 hotels in the UK during the next five years.

Childminder's Ofsted praise

A **CHILDMINDER** from Banbury has been found to be meeting early years' requirements after a visit from Ofsted.

Natacha Beak, who is registered to look after up to eight children, was visited by the school standards watchdog on August 17.

Inspectors said she knew how to assess children's achievements and plan a range of activities. She was deemed to understand the need to keep her knowledge of childcare practices up to date and evaluate her practice.

Inspectors said she had used her links with the local authority to extend her knowledge and skills.

Inspector Victoria Weir said: "The childminder recognises the benefit of working with parents and other childcare settings children attend to support consistency in their care and learning."

"The childminder has a variety of toys and resources to stimulate children's learning and independence."

"She knows how to manage children's behaviour and develop their social skills and confidence."

Court shorts

NATHAN Wilkins, 26, of Chetwode, Banbury, admitted drug-driving in Middleton Road, Banbury, on April 19. Had 3.3 micrograms of cannabis in his blood, exceeding the limit of two micrograms. Fined £162 and ordered to pay a £30 victim surcharge and £40 costs.


CLAIRE Clarke, 51, of Wilsdon Way, Kidlington, was convicted of breaching a restraining order without reasonable excuse by making three telephone calls and leaving a voicemail message on Tallon Clarke's phone, which she was prohibited from doing. Admitted failing without reasonable cause to surrender to custody at Banbury Magistrates' Court. Fined £120 and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and £310 costs.

MICHAEL Chapman, 61, of no fixed abode, admitted lodging in the open air in Kings End, Bicester, after being refused accommodation at a reasonably accessible place of shelter on February 16. Also admitted failing without reasonable cause to surrender to custody at Banbury Magistrates' Court. Handed a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge.

LUKASZ Owczarek, 33, of Prescott Avenue, Banbury, admitted failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirements of a community order by not attending rehabilitation activity requirement and unpaid work sessions on July 7. Fined £50.

LUKE James, 24, of Winston Drive, Banbury, admitted assaulting a man by beating him in Horse Fair, Banbury, on January 9. Discharged conditionally for 12 months and ordered to pay £500 compensation, a £20 victims' surcharge and £50 costs.

PIOTR Gorecki, 41, of West Street, Banbury, admitted driving an unlicensed vehicle in Banbury Road, Bicester, on March 14. Fined £660 and ordered to pay vehicle excise back duty of £75.84 and £90 costs.





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Man faces court

A MAN who turned up to court without legal representation has had his sentencing adjourned.

Andrew Lovejoy was due to be sentenced at Oxford Crown Court last week after admitting dangerous driving, drink-driving and failing to stop when required by a constable.

The court heard the 38-year-old chose to represent himself after concerns he might not be eligible for legal aid.

But he changed his mind after Judge Ian Pringle warned him he faced an immediate prison sentence.

Lovejoy, of East Street, Banbury, was released on bail and is due to appear before the court on October 6.

Send in images

GROUPS of friends in Banbury are invited to enter a competition to be whisked off to London and become the new face of Supercuts.

The salon inside the Sainsbury's in Oxford Road is calling on people to send in a snap of themselves with their best friends, with the winners treated to an A-list hair and beauty makeover, an exclusive studio photoshoot and an overnight stay in the capital.

To enter post a photograph with up to five friends on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter tagging @SupercutsUK and using the hashtag #SquadGoals.

Conditional bail

A 25-YEAR-old pleaded guilty to unlawfully wounding another man at Oxford Crown Court yesterday.

Joshua Conheeney, 25, of Lansdown Close, Banbury, will be sentenced on October 13 after he admitted the incident, which took place in August 2015. He has been released on conditional bail.

Mountain of bulbs is set to get district blooming



Back from left, John Bennett, Liz Yardley and Maurice Humphris, front, Harry Matthews, Mayor Gordon Ross and Fred Riches

Rotary members will be out planting crocuses to carpet town in purple

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A PURPLE carpet of beautiful blooms will sweep through Banbury next year thanks to the efforts of hundreds of locals aiming to beat polio for good.

More than 40,000 crocuses are being planted in the town, co-ordinated by the Banbury Rotary Club, to support Rotary's national 'Purple4Polio' fundraising initiative.

Over the next 12 months the club will organise a host of events to raise funds and awareness of the deadly disease, which is now on the brink of eradication.

Local president Owen Kyffin said: "As a club we have worked tirelessly to ensure that polio is eradicated."

"With fewer cases being reported we believe we can end this disease forever. This has been the goal for 30 years and we're determined to make this a success."

For the last three decades, Rotary has spearheaded efforts to raise cash for immunisation against polio, a virus often affecting children that can cause paralysis, deformities or death.

This year Cherwell District Council, Banbury Town Council and local accountants firm Whitley Stimpson have funded the purchase of huge quantities of crocus corms - more than double the number planted in Banbury in previous years - that will be sown in the coming weeks. Eight local primaries are also growing 12,000 flowers of their own.

On Saturday, October 22 this

year the club will host a market stall to mark World Polio Day, while ringers at the St Mary's Church bell tower ring out a quarter peal.

The following month hundreds of children from 28 primary schools will sing to support the international cause at St Mary's Church.

Then in March next year, just as the flowers begin to bloom, youngsters from the eight crocus-planting schools will sing their hearts out at two 'Crocus Concerts'.

In the first few years of the Banbury Crocus Concerts Project, sufficient money was raised to immunise almost 100,000 children. Rotary International president Eve Conway said: "The world stands on the brink of an historic milestone and we must focus our efforts on the final push. Let's join together to make history and end polio now and forever."

Employers set to be at jobs event

AN autumn jobs fair will be staged at Oxford Town Hall after a similar event earlier this year proved a major success.

The Oxford Times Jobs Fair will return on Thursday, September 22, after career opportunities at the last one in February attracted more than 1,500 visitors.

At the last event, major employers from across the county recruited staff, including Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust, the RAF, Thames Valley Police, learning disabilities charity Style Acre, Grondon Waste Management and event sponsors Day and Nightcare Assistance.

Staff at the BMW plant in Cowley, which produces the Mini, staffed its stall with a team of apprentices.

There were 35 companies signing up new recruits and so far 25 employers have confirmed they will attend the jobs bonanza later this month.

Newsquest media sales manager Belinda Rand said: "The Oxford Times Jobs Fair is back by popular demand, due to the huge success of the jobs fair in February, when there were more than 1,500 visitors."

"It's an excellent opportunity for companies to speak to prospective

employees face to face."

The fair, which starts at 10am and is free, will be staged in the main hall at the venue in St Aldate's. Organisers at Newsquest Oxfordshire are expecting more companies to confirm they will man stalls at the event.

Exhibitors will include Day and Nightcare Assistance - once again event sponsors - South Central Ambulance Service, NHS Blood and Transport, Tesco, Andrews Property Service, Grondon Waste Management, Age UK, and Hermes Parcelnet.

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NCS Awards Oxford Jake Parkhouse, 16, and Karena Norris, 16, both from Banbury who took part in this year's NCS, below. Picture by Mark Bassett

Programme sees pupils aid causes

Volunteers give up time to help community as part of National Citizen Service

Naomi Herring
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GONE are the days of national service but that hasn't stopped hundreds of pupils volunteering their summer holidays to give back to their community in Oxfordshire.

It is not quite the compulsory military requirement of the pre 1960s but the National Citizen Service has shown young people are more than willing to give up their free time to help raise money for good causes.

This year's class culminated in more than £30,000 being raised for local projects and charities including tackling homelessness, supporting cancer research and helping rescue animals.

NCS team leader Edward White said: "The scheme really helps teenagers develop life skills outside the things they would usually learn at school.

"The interpersonal skills such as talking to strangers, interacting with people outside their age groups and generating ideas and fundraising for the first time for many.

"The young people started with an adventure week at the Oxfordshire County Council Outdoor Learning Hill End Centre where they were able to do things like rock climbing, with people they had just met.

"It gets them out of their comfort zone.

"In weeks three and four they



are split into groups to choose what causes they would like to support. They think up, plan and do everything for these last two weeks we are just there for support."

The scheme prides itself on bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds and giving them new skills, as well as helping local charities.

This year 614 teenagers from different parts of Oxfordshire and different schools took part and totalled 36,840 hours of volunteering all together.

Participant Jake Parkhouse, 16, from Banbury said: "The first half was obviously more fun and enjoyable than the second half, I liked the rock climbing especially and you got to meet lots of new people.

"The second half was a lot of planning but it was worth it and I learnt how to deal with different people I would not necessarily mix with.

"We did cakes sales, a 28-mile fundraiser, car wash and a fete which raised about £274 for vari-

ous charities including Katherine House Hospice."

Overall the 614 graduates of this year's scheme helped raise £30,745.64 to more than 40 Oxfordshire causes and charities.

NCS co-ordinator Ryan Johnson said: "Oxfordshire County Council National Citizen Service Summer programme has been a huge success, with 614 young people – aged 15-17 – successfully graduating from the programme.

"This is a vast increase in delivery numbers from our pilot back in 2012, when we delivered only 68 places. We are proud of all of the young people and their achievements this summer.

"The young people took responsibility for themselves and showed they can make a real difference to issues affecting their communities."

Charis McCobb, 16, from Cumnor added: "Our group decided we wanted to help the homeless and support cancer research also. We did a sponsored sleep out in town which was quite eye-opening."

The scheme is open to applicants for the Autumn programme in October, for more information see ncsyes.co.uk.

Busy schedule awaits town's MP

A PACKED calendar awaits Banbury MP Victoria Prentis as she returns to Parliament following the summer break.

Before the recess Mrs Prentis was appointed as a parliamentary private secretary (PPS) in the Department for Transport.

She has also been campaigning on issues regarding maternity provision at the Horton General hospital.

Mrs Prentis is set to fly to Jordan to visit Syrian refugees with the charity Save the Children and is organising a second Singing for Syria fundraising event during the winter months.

The Cherwell Democracy challenge debating



Victoria Prentis

competition she organised last year is also set to return in the next few months, and she has organised a Shakespeare workshop with actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company for primary schools.

Mrs Prentis said:

"Following a very eventful summer, I am enjoying being back in Westminster and catching up with fellow MPs.

"The next few months will be busy but very exciting. "As I get to grips with my new role as PPS to transport ministers, I am organising a number of meetings in North Oxfordshire alongside an important trip to Jordan later this month.

"I am particularly looking forward to upcoming events with local schools and am thrilled that so many are keen to participate in the Shakespeare workshop and debating challenge."

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Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

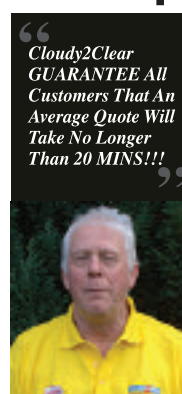
Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company

policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. "Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury

& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Expert warns of pressures on NHS staff

A "COCKTAIL" of health issues is set to pile pressure on Oxfordshire's public services.

That is the warning from Dr Jonathan McWilliam, the county's director of public health, who called for wide-ranging reforms.

He said they were needed to cope with the ageing population, an influx of young families to new housing estates and rising obesity.

A failure to implement change would see Oxfordshire feel the impact harder than other areas because of its higher than average numbers of elderly people, his annual report found.

Dr McWilliam said: "What we have got here is a cocktail of different factors and at the same time there is still a squeeze on finances. When you put that all together, it means things cannot stay as they are.

"And it cannot be a one size fits all solution, we will need different solutions for different parts of the county. Services need to be re-shaped across the board."

Preventative care and living more healthily were likely to become an economic necessity, he said, with more NHS services based in communities and a greater use of online technology.

The annual report for the first time also examined young people's mental health, which it said were as important as physical health problems.

Dr McWilliam said mental health referrals to Oxford Health continued to grow and the highest proportion were from teenagers.



Pat Chirgwin, of Volunteer Link Up, Ruth Stavris of AMI and Emily Lewis-Edwards, of Community First Oxfordshire, using the AMI online service

Community service is aiming to combat loneliness

COMMUNITY groups have hailed a venture that hopes to combat loneliness by recruiting volunteers online.

Three more good neighbour schemes are set to sign up this month to web platform Ami, which tackles social isolation, alongside six

organisations that have already embraced the site.

The website withami.co.uk lists people nearby who have been put forward by care organisations to get support – such as help with their shopping or a friendly face to talk to – and others can offer to help.

Emily Lewis-Edwards, director of Community First Oxon, said: "We're using Ami to find more volunteer drivers for people who need lifts to hospital appointments or social engagements.

"Spending a small amount of time helping someone to get out and

about can make a huge difference to someone else's life."

Sheila Furlong, director of loneliness charity The Archway Foundation, added: "We've already attracted more than double the number of volunteers we usually have by using it."

Grammars call is welcomed by education chief

But school head says system is unfair on poorer children

Luke Sproule
lsroule@nqo.com

GRAMMAR schools could return to Oxfordshire despite staunch opposition after the county's education boss said she is "up for a fight".

Melinda Tilley said she wanted to see an "education revolution" and was ready to take on headteachers, politicians and teaching unions.

It comes after the Prime Minister said she wanted to lift the ban on new grammar schools.

Mrs Tilley said: "I am very pleased by the Prime Minister's announcement and I am very determined.

"When grammar schools are run properly any child can get into them.

"That is what Theresa May has made very clear and there will be incentives for grammar schools to take pupils from poorer areas.

"I want to see grammar



Niall McWilliams

schools alongside gold-standard technical colleges with the same prestige and funding.

"I am up for a fight because I want to improve outcomes for all the children.

"If I have my way we will see an educational revolution in Oxfordshire."

NUT Oxfordshire secretary Gawain Little said: "We will relentlessly fight against this poli-

cy. Grammar schools destroy the life chances of children.

"For every grammar school child about three or four children go into secondary moderns, you deny them life chances and ruin their lives.

"You cannot say that a child's merit as a human being is decided by how good they are primarily with maths and English aged 11."

Mrs May said grammar schools would help all children achieve their potential and create a more meritocratic society by helping gifted youngsters from working class backgrounds.

But The Oxford Academy headteacher Niall McWilliams rejected this.

He said: "Every single shred of evidence shows us that grammar schools do not have an impact on social mobility or poverty levels.

"The whole idea is abhorrent.

"I think the Government will have a big fight on its hands, I have no doubt about that."

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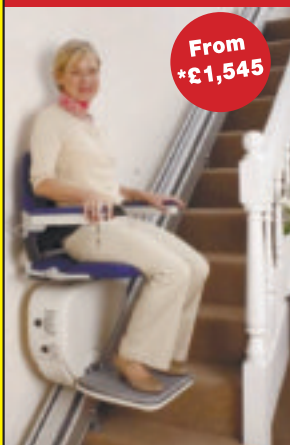
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Bridget has the baby blues

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (15, 123 mins) Comedy/Romance. Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Patrick Dempsey, Emma Thompson, Sarah Solemani, Neil Pearson, Gemma Jones, Jim Broadbent. Director: Sharon Maguire
AS CREATIVE pregnancies go, *Bridget Jones's Baby* has taken longer than most to come full-term.

It's been 12 years since Renee Zellweger adopted a near-flawless English accent to portray the hapless singleton in *Bridget Jones: The Edge Of Reason*.

In the interim, writer Helen Fielding has delivered a third novel, *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy*, but it's her series of newspaper columns from more than a decade ago that fertilizes this haphazard, yet joyful stumble into motherhood.

The third film throws a warm, affectionate and frequently hilarious baby shower for characters we've grown to love.

"I'm trying not to think I'm past my sexual sell-by date," laments Bridget, as she careens towards her 43rd birthday without a wedding ring on her finger.

She works as a producer at Hard News alongside old boss Richard Finch (Neil Pearson) and newscaster pal Miranda (Sarah Solemani), who suggests a hedonistic girls-only weekend at a music festival.

The gal pals descend on a muddy field, which Miranda pithily describes as "Sodom and Gomorrah... with tofu".

A late-night blunder into the wrong yurt leads to a spontaneous coupling with a handsome American love guru called Jack Quant (Patrick Dempsey). A few days later, Bridget is powerless to resist the silky charms of old flame Mark Darcy (Firth), who is separating from his wife.

A pregnancy test at work confirms that Bridget is about to gain weight. If only she knew who was the father...

In *Bridget Jones's Baby*, Zellweger slips back into the title role with ease, oozing lovability, fragility and regret as she wonders how to broach the subject of paternity with her two suitors.

Dempsey and Firth are attractive rivals for Bridget's affections and the script keeps us guessing as long as possible about the course of true love.

THE INFILTRATOR (15, 127 mins) Thriller/Drama. Bryan Cranston, Diane Kruger, Benjamin Bratt, Olympia Dukakis, Amy Ryan, John Leguizamo, Daniel Mays, Joseph Gilgun, Jason Isaacs, Elena Anaya. Director: Brad Furman

IT MIGHT have taken him until his autumn years, but Bryan Cranston is finally enjoying the recognition he deserves following his overdue breakthrough role as Walter White in the TV phenomenon *Breaking Bad*.

The actor, who was nominated for an Oscar for his role in *Trumbo*, is mesmerising to watch on screen, so eyes remain fully focused on the action in *The Infiltrator*, directed by Brad Furman, as Cranston's in almost every scene.

In this Eighties-set drama, he plays Robert Mazur, a mild-mannered family man and federal agent who realises that, if they're ever going to make a dent in the world of drug trafficking, they have to switch tack and go after the money rather than those doing the small-time drug deals.

Based on Mazur's memoirs, it details his transformation into 'Bob Musella', the larger-than-life businessman he creates in order to infiltrate the drugs world by offering to launder millions of pounds through legit investments.

Not only is he going after kingpin Pablo Escobar's Colombian drug cartel, but also the seemingly respectable bankers who are willing to turn



Renee Zellweger as Bridget Jones in *Bridget Jones's Baby*; above, Bryan Cranston as Robert Mazur/Bob Musella as *The Infiltrator*

a blind eye to the origins of the money. In this world, one wrong word and it's game over with a bullet in the back of the head.

Not least when Mazur's forced to pretend he has a fiancée after he turns a stripper down out of loyalty for his wife. Mazur's colleague Kathy Ertz (Diane Kruger) is drafted in for the role. It's her debut undercover, and Mazur is dubious before realising they have the perfect opportunity to gather their new 'friends' under one roof for a glamorous wedding and potentially undertake one of the biggest stings in history.

There are strong performances from all, but Cranston steals the show.

Cake Bookworm

Homo Deus: A Brief History Of Tomorrow by Yuval Noah Harari is published in hardback by Harvill Secker, priced £25 (ebook £12.99)

DR YUVAL Noah Harari has a PhD in history from the University of Oxford, and now lectures at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Following the global success of his book *Sapiens*, about the history of humankind, he turns his attention to the future. The thrust of his argument is that rapid technological developments are evolving a new kind of human being – long-lived, possibly immortal, and hard-wired into the data processes of the internet. His reasoning is laid out with a lucidity that makes it a joy to read. But his vision is terrifying and perhaps, ultimately, irresponsible. Human rights, for example, might just be another story humankind tells itself. But they're our best consensual effort at a decent society.

Nutshell by Ian McEwan is published in hardback by Jonathan Cape, priced £15.99 (ebook £9.99)

IF YOU thought a story narrated from the afterlife was innovative, get a load of this: Ian McEwan's latest novel is told from the perspective of a third-trimester foetus in the throes of an existential crisis. The precocious womb-dweller has overheard mummy and uncle plotting to send his cuckolded father to the grave before he's even made it down the birth canal into a cradle. A wine buff with a penchant for podcasts, our not-yet-born narrator is as clever as the author, who spins this gripping yarn in his usual sublime prose, sprinkled with the blackest of comic relief. The in utero viewpoint sounds gimmicky, but it's deftly handled – in fact, at just shy of 200 pages, the only criticism one could level at this slender beauty is that it's over all too soon.

Here I Am by Jonathan Safran Foer is published in hardback by Hamish Hamilton, priced £20 (ebook £9.99)

ELEVEN years after his last novel, Jonathan Safran Foer returns with an ambitious third novel about an American Jewish family, the Blochs. Jacob and Julia Bloch, and their three sons, Sam, Max and Benji, are the epitome of solid family life, to the outside world at least. In reality, Jacob's grandfather is considering whether to take his own life instead of moving into the Jewish home, Julia has just discovered Jacob's 'other' phone with explicit text messages not meant for her, Jacob's oldest son, Sam, has been accused of writing offensive words at school, and the family pet, Argus, is on his last legs. It couldn't be much worse, but then the situation in Israel reaches breaking point, and Jacob has to face up to both his personal and political responsibilities.



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Week will offer recycling help

A RE-EDUCATION on recycling will be offered through Cherwell District Council's Recycling Week 2016.

Councillor Debbie Pickford, who leads Cherwell's Clean and Green Team, said: "Recycling Week 2016 is themed around 'the unusual suspects'."

"It's a chance to shed light on items that often get forgotten about when people are sorting their waste, such as batteries, aerosols and smoke detectors."

Events for recycling week will take place across Banbury, Bicester, and Kidlington, and begin September 12.

The first was held at Sainsbury's in Kidlington yesterday, from 10am to 1pm.

Tomorrow an event will be held at Banbury Market Place from 8.30am to 1pm, and the final event will be on Friday at Bicester Market Place from 8.30am to 1pm.

The district council said recycling compostable materials, like contents of brown food and garden waste, saves an average of £38 each year as compared to treating the green bin materials.

Officials hope to "myth bust" common misconceptions about recycling to help residents understand better.

Ms Pickford added: "By clearing up myths about what can and cannot go into recycling bins, we can make recycling easier for our residents and cut back on what goes to be incinerated."

"People are often uncertain about how clean things have to be for recycling and we will be offering guidelines on this too throughout recycling week."

Gannett grant making a real difference to charity

In 2009 Restore, a mental health charity, used their grant to purchase a minibus

Andy Ffrench
affrench@nqo.com

A LITTLE help has gone a long way to let a mental health charity transport its members in South Oxfordshire.

Good causes in the county are invited to apply for a slice of funding worth up to £10,000 each being given away by the *Witney Gazette's* parent company Gannett Media.

The grant scheme, run by the firm's charity arm Gannett Foundation, is held annually to support the community and has helped secure the future for many smaller charities since the late 1990s.

Staff at Restore said its grant made a huge difference.

In 2009 the mental health charity received a £15,000 grant from the foundation towards the cost of a new minibus at its base in Fleet Meadow, Didcot. The vehicle is still being used every day.

The charity gives training and one-to-one help for clients, and staff say the minibus is a lifeline for those travelling to the centre in Sandringham Road.



Restore manager Olivier Guillot is pictured with his team and the minibus in 2010. Picture Marc West

Restore's acting head of fundraising Fiona Young said: "The minibus does a huge number of miles."

"Lots of people who come to Restore in Didcot live out in the villages and don't have their own transport or can't drive, so they rely on the minibus to get them here. People with moderate to severe mental health difficulties come here up to three times a week for as long as they need to."

"Some have a fear of taxis or buses but they are happy to get in the minibus – it's a lifeline."

Witney Gazette managing editor Sara Taylor said: "This is a great chance for charities across the county to apply for extra funding in what is a financially difficult time."

"It is becoming increasingly hard for charities and community projects to secure extra funding and I would hope many take advantage of



this opportunity.

"I am also glad to see that the trustees have expanded its criteria to welcome more organisations, such as scouting or guiding groups, to apply."

Each year a special theme is chosen and this time it is the needs of rural communities, although all applications that meet the general criteria will be given equal consideration.

● To apply you must represent a registered charity and must not have received a grant from the foundation in the past two years. Applications will only be accepted electronically on the approved application form with full answers and necessary materials given. Closing date is October 14, and forms can be found at witneygazette.co.uk/gannettfoundation

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Ballroom Dancing: The Henry Box School Sports Hall, Church Green, Witney. Beginners course with Pat Anslow. See dancewithpatanslow.co.uk. 6.30pm. 07789 974866.

Mercury Rising – Measuring Temperature Through Time: Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. Prof Graham Machin, National Physical Laboratory, will explore the origin and development of temperature scales. Free booking at www.bit.ly/mhs-events. 7pm. Free. 01865 277280.

Wytham Woods – The Natural Place for Research: Top Pavilion in Cutteslowe, Cutteslowe Park, Oxford. The Friends of Cutteslowe & Sunnymead Park host a talk by Nigel Fisher, Conservator of Wytham Woods. 7pm. Free. 01865 515573.

FRIDAY

Beer and Sausage Festival: The Cricketers Arms, Littleworth, Wheatley. Also Saturday and Sunday. 12pm. Free. 01865 872738.

Community Afternoon Open Garden: The Walled Garden, Wilcote, North Leigh. Bridewell Organic Gardens and Vineyard is a therapeutic horticulture project that provides a recovery service through land-based activities for people with mental health issues. Plants and teas will be for sale. 2pm. £3.50, children free. 01993 868313.

Midnight Runway Run: London Oxford Airport, Langford Lane, Kidlington. Run the runways at London Oxford Airport at midnight. In aid of cancer research in either a 5k or 10k run walk or jog. Sign up at www.midnightrunwayrun.co.uk 11pm.

The Creation Station: The Emmanuel Church, Barberry Place, Bure Park, Bicester. The 'Baby Discover' classes for babies aged five to 14 months and the 'Little Explorer' classes for toddlers aged 15 months to five years. 9.30am. 07724 321930.

Victory Fashion at Upton House: Upton House & Gardens, Upton House, Banbury. See examples of women's military uniforms, and discover the stories of those who wore them. 1pm. Normal admission prices apply. 01295 670266.

SATURDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: St Peter's Church, Farmington, Gloucestershire. Moderate 11-mile walk in figure of eight taking in Clapton on the Hill and Bourton on the Water. Picnic lunch. Registered assistance dogs only. Leader Jenny Powls. 10am. 07879 444916.

Charlbury Street Fair: Church Street, Charlbury. Grand opening by surprise celebrity, children's fancy dress, art exhibition, Charlbury Morris, street stalls, evening bands, food and refreshments. www.charlburystreetfair.org 2pm. 01608 810025.

Eynsham Swap Shop: The Sports Pavilion, 1 Oxford Road, Eynsham. Good quality and reusable items needed for swapping. Bring before 11am. No electricals accepted. 10am. Free. 01865 881095.

Henley Highwayman-Cycle/Run or Duathlon for Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice: Henley on Thames. The Henley Highwayman weekend is made up of a bike event and hill run, with choice of distances for each. Enter as individual events or together for the Henley Highwayman Duathlon. 9am. £17-65. 01491 641 384.

Introduction to Permaculture: Braziers Park, Ipsden. A weekend course with tutors John Baker and Trish Whitham. Learn how to design for

sustainable living and growing. Saturday night bonfire and music. Camping £11 per person per night. 9.30am. £150 including lunches and refreshments. 07974 916954.

Marsh Gibbon Beer Festival: Village Hall, Clements Lane, Marsh Gibbon. Featuring 18 beers and ciders and with music, food and light refreshments and children's entertainment. 1pm. Free admission. 07733 284228.

Oxford Race for Life Pretty Muddy 5k 2016: University Parks, South Parks Road, Oxford. Muddy obstacle course. You must be over 13 to take part. Adult entry (16+ women-only) £19.99. Child entry (13-15 girls) £10. 10am. 0300 123 0770.

Restart Repair Cafe: The Mix Community Space, Mill Street, Wantage. Volunteer fixers on hand to advise and help repair household and small electrical items. 10am. Free. 07768 767787.

Saturday Spotlight – Paul Griffith, The Japanese Stage: Pitt Rivers Museum, Entry via Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. Paul Griffith, co-author of *A Guide to the Japanese Stage*, will speak about the history and traditions of kabuki theatre. 2.30pm. Free. 01865 270927.

TRYathalon with a difference for Marie Curie Cancer Care: The Oxfordshire Yeoman Pub, 172 Wroslyn Road, Freeland. A three, six or 12-mile bike ride (optional), a six-mile walk and 10, 16, or 20 lengths swimming (choose the number of lengths). Followed by a BBQ and music at the Oxfordshire Yeoman at the end. Contact Nicky for a registration form. 9.30am. £5 registration and £30 sponsorship. 07754 271831.

Upton Church Fete & Fun Dog Show: Upton Recreation Ground, Station Road, Upton. Traditional village fete. Cry Havoc dancers, Blewbury Brass Band, Juggling John. Grand Draw. Dog show entries on the day. 1.30pm. £1, kids go free. 01235 850486.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Gate Inn, Upper Brailes. SP305398 six miles. A hilly walk up Gillets Hill through Ashen Coppice and Brailes Hill to Lower Brailes. Returning by the famous 99 steps and a circuit of Castle Hill. Bring refreshments for en route break. Pub at end of walk. Assistance dogs only. 10.30am. 07855 170592.

SUNDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Homebase car park, Launton Road, Bicester. Leisurely four-mile circular walk via Launton. Leader Sue Curtis. 2pm. 07986 813352.

Friends of Waterperry Gardens Plant Sale: Waterperry Gardens, Wheatley. Annual plant sale, plus a book stall, produce stall and tombola. 10.30am. Free.

Risborough Preview Sunday: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. The trains will be 'top and tailed' with vintage diesel at one end and steam locomotive L92 at the other – the diesel will haul the train to the site of what will become a new platform in Princes Risborough in 2017, and the steam locomotive will haul the train back to Chinnor. Trains at 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 3pm & 4.30pm. Adult £11, senior £10, child £6. 07979 055366.

Second Lease Walk: Woodford Way Car Park, Witney. One walk of nine miles taking in Stow, Mangersbury, the Swells and Donnington and a second walk is four miles in Minster Lovell and Crawley. Join for either walk. 9.30am. 01993 774500.

Visit to Waterperry: Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry. This visit is organised by the new committee of the Ardley and Fewcott Gardening Club and

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

is open to members and non members. The coach will leave Fritwell bus stop at 10am and then pick up at Ardley, Bucknell Road and in Bicester at the bus station. 10am. £12. Call to book. 01869 345250.

MONDAY

Abingdon Scottish Dance Club: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. No partner required. 8pm. Free for the first evening, then £2.50. 01235 525436.

Mums Meet Mondays: Rugrats and Halfpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 9.30am. £1 per child. 01295 250060.

TUESDAY

Art Demonstration on Painting Wildlife in Acrylics: Centre 70, Kiln Lane, Goldsmith Lane, Wallingford. Wallingford & District Art Club demonstration by Andrew Forkner. 7.30pm. £3 to visitors, free to WADAC members. 07803 263320.

Latin American Dancing: The Henry Box School Sports Hall, Church Green, Witney. New beginner classes with Pat Anslow. See www.dancewithpatanslow.co.uk 7pm. 07789 974866.

Windrush Bike Project Basic Bike Maintenance Course: Cogges Manor Farm, Cogges, Witney. A six-hour course split into three weekly two-hour sessions covering the fundamentals of bike maintenance and repair. To book see www.windrushbikeproject.uk 6.30pm. £65.

WEDNESDAY

Abingdon Decorative and Fine Arts Society Lecture: Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon. The September lecture is entitled *Double Dutch: Signs, Symbols and Double-Entendre in Dutch Genre Painting* given by NADFAS-accredited lecturer Lynne Gibson. For details see www.adfas.org.uk. 10.30am and 2pm.

Five Senses Under Fives Event: Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford. Explore the garden using all your senses, and enjoy craft, stories and more. Suggested donation of £1 towards materials. 10.30am. Adults £5, children free with paying family member. 01865 286690.

Nature Tots: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay. Outdoor nature play, games, stories and craft. 9.30am. £5 per child, accompanying adults free. 01235 862024.

Music

THURSDAY

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: Music for autism concert with Derek Paravicini piano and Christine Cairns voice. 12pm. Free. 07775 904626.

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: Derek Paravicini Jazz Quartet. 7.30pm. £15. 07775 904626.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Moon Hooch, Marco Benevento, Tiece, Train Robbers. Sax and drum jazz-rave trio. 7pm. £8.

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: *One Night of Queen*. Gary Mullen & The Works perform Queen classics. 7.30pm. £23.40.

FRIDAY

The Northcourt, Abingdon Utd, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: Dirty DC. AC/DC tribute. 7.30pm £12 advance & £14 door. 01235 203203.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Graham Metcalfe. Oxford Folk Club. 7.30pm. £6. 01865 768128.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Homeplanetearth, Roberto y Amigos, Polar Front and Little Red. 6.30pm. £10 (£8, £6).

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: 1000 Chains, Cosmosis, Easter Island Statues, Sleepers' Dome. Metal, acoustic rock and garage pop. 7.45pm. £6.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: The Autumn Saints, Ocean Ruins, Firegazers. Country rock & folk. 7pm. £6.

New Theatre, 2 George Street, Oxford: The Illegal Eagles. Tribute to 70s country-rock superstars. 7.30pm. £24.90-£26.90.

The Mad Hatter, 43 Iffley Road, Oxford: The Mighty Redox. All original psycho-eclectic rock band. 8pm. Free.

SATURDAY

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: Brahms concert. OSJ Voices. 7.30pm. £20/£30/£37.50. 07775 904626.

Iffley Church Hall, Church Way, Iffley, Oxford: Song Recital. Lara-Clare Bourdeaux (soprano) and Nicola Rose (piano). Shakespeare's heroines in opera and song. 7.30pm. £12 (child/student £5). 01865 779663.

University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford: Autumn Concert: Janá ek, Holmes, Strauss & Brahms. 7.30pm. £12/£10/£5.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Vera Grace, Revelation, Chapter & Verse, Silk Road. Metal & alt-rock. 7pm. £5 (adv), £7 (otd).

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Kanada, Little Brother Eli, Vienna Ditto. Experimental rock, country & sci-fi blues. 6.30pm. £4.

James Street Tavern, 47-48 James Street, Oxford: Beard Of Destiny, Cherokee, Texas Ghost Train, STEM, Superloose, Daisy West. Oxford Beard Festival 2016. 12pm-late. Free.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Hummingbirds, Whyte Lytes, Bryn. Liverpool's skiffle influenced folk-rockers. 6.30pm. £8.

The Swan Inn, Shipton Road, Ascott-u-Wychwood: Mark Harrison and Farmer John. Wychwood Folk Club. 8pm (doors 7.30pm). £8 (£6 advance).

SUNDAY

St Nicolas' Church, Market Place, Abingdon: New Oxford Trio. Chris Britton flute, Carolyn King oboe, Malcolm Pearce piano. 3pm. £10 (£9). 07775 904626.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Khamsina Album Launch. 7-11pm. £3-5.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Sundara Karma plus FREAK and The Night Cafe. 7pm. £12 (£10 advance).

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford: Tommaso & Michelle Di Torro. Sax and piano. Classical, jazz and world music. 6.30-9pm. Free.

MONDAY

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Giles Robson. Blues harmonica player. £10. 8pm. 01865 434998.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: The Aureate Act, 31 hours, Luke Allmond, Arcadian. Local rock and folk-rock acts. 7pm.

TUESDAY

Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Oxford Improvisers. An evening of new and improvised music. £9, £6. 7.45pm. 01865 263990.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Mainstream/swing jazz. 8.30pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY

The Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage: Zelda's Jazz Room presents The Pedigree Jazz Band. Led by clarinetist Chris Walker. £10. 8pm. 01235 765648.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Sep 15-16, *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Family*. UK all-star poetry slam champion Ben Norris battles the country's most notorious service stations in search of the man who became his father. 7.30pm. £10 (£8). Sep 17, *Tales from Old Japan*. Puppetry and music. 11am and 2pm. £8 (£6). 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Sep 17, Anthony J Brown and John Hastings. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Sep 13-17, *Brief Lives*. 7.30pm plus 2.30pm on Sat. £15, £12 (concs). All matinee tickets: £12. Sep 20, *Dance Scratch Night*. See new dance work and give feedback. 7.30pm. £5. 01865 263990.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Sep 12-17, *Relatively Speaking*. By Alan Ayckbourn, With Robert Powell and Liza Goddard. Various times. £15-£31. Sep 20-24, *A Tale of Two Cities*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£27. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Sep 17, *The Carpenters Story*. 7.30pm. £24.90-£26.90 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Oxford: Sep 16-17, *The Iqbal Khan Project*. New scripts from young writing associates directed by Iqbal Khan. 7pm. £8. Sep 19, *Good Psychopath... Really?* Talk by Dr Kevin Dutton, a research psychologist at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford. 7.30pm. £10; concession; £8. Sep 20, *64 squares*. Rhum and Clay Theatre Company with a tale of madness, memory and chess, accompanied by a live percussive score. 8pm. £10; concession £8. 01865 319450.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Sep 14-24, *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*. Musical Comedy. 7.30pm and 2.30pm. £17.50, concessions £15, schools £8.50. Sep 18, *Marcus Brigstock: Why the long face?* 7.45pm. £17.50. 01608 642350.

Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot: Sep 17, *John Hegley: Peace, Love and Potatoes*. Comedy. 8pm. £15, concs £13.50, members £12. 01235 515144.

Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Sep 16, *Connie's Colander*. The Witney Dementia Action Alliance presents Human Story Theatre's play exploring the effect of dementia on a mother and daughter. Followed by a Q&A session with Prof Graham Stokes, director of Dementia Care at Bupa. 7.30pm. £10 per ticket, £7.50 concessions. 01993 768557.

CakeSport

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Ford impressed by Jeacock bow

Oxford United loanee makes quick impact for Puritans

MIKE Ford was full of praise for new recruit George Jeacock after the young striker netted on his Banbury United debut.

The 18-year-old won the penalty which gave Banbury their first goal and then netted the second himself in the 2-2 Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division draw at Kettering Town.

Ford was impressed with the youngster, who joined on a youth loan from Oxford United.

The Banbury boss said: "As a centre forward, when you join a new club you want to get off the mark early and that's exactly what he did."

"I thought that for a young lad of 18 he showed terrific maturity to

FOOTBALL

handle the occasion so well.

"If he does well here then hopefully we can keep him a little longer, but if he does really well he might go back to his parent club and play in the Football League."

Midfielder Marvin Martin, who has returned to the club from Didcot Town, is still waiting for his first appearance, having missed out against Kettering with an ankle injury.

He is unavailable for Saturday's Emirates FA Cup second qualifying round trip to Cirencester Town as he is cup-tied.

Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Blackstock, Nash, Fawke, Gunn, Barcelos (Bell 58), Self, Johnson, Jeacock (Howards 84), Jones (Browne 74). **Subs not used:** Martin, Davies. **Attendance:** 480.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

	Premier Division						Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	
Chippenham Tn	8	6	2	0	20	9	20
Slough Tn	8	6	1	1	17	5	19
Dunstable Tn	8	6	1	1	13	7	19
Leamington	8	5	2	1	11	4	17
Frome Tn	8	5	1	2	18	11	16
Merthyr Tn	7	2	4	1	20	9	13
Chesham Utd	8	3	3	2	11	8	12
Redditch Utd	8	4	0	4	12	14	12
Hitchin Tn	8	3	2	3	12	12	11
Kettering Tn	8	3	2	3	9	12	11
Weymouth	8	3	2	3	9	12	11
King's Lynn Tn	8	3	2	3	12	16	11
Banbury Utd	8	3	1	4	10	9	10
Stratford Tn	8	2	4	2	12	12	10
St Neots Tn	8	3	1	4	14	16	10
St Ives Tn	7	3	1	3	8	11	10
Cambridge City	8	2	3	3	12	11	9
Kings Langley	8	2	2	4	12	11	8
Biggleswade Tn	8	2	2	4	10	12	8
Basingstoke Tn	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
Cinderford Tn	8	2	0	6	13	19	6
Hayes & Y	8	1	2	5	8	15	5
Dorchester Tn	8	1	2	5	7	18	5
Cirencester Tn	8	1	1	6	7	20	4



George Jeacock, pictured in training with Oxford United, was a big hit on his Banbury United debut

Cool Ed is Banbury's star man

RUGBY UNION

A LATE penalty by Ed Phillips, who also scored two tries, gave Banbury a thrilling 25-24 success at Chippenham.

The visitors twice trailed early on, but hit back with tries from Josh Deegan and a close-range effort by Phillips, who converted for a 12-10 interval lead.

Early in the second half, Phillips stretched Banbury's lead, landing a penalty before diving over for his second try, which he converted.

But Banbury errors crept in, allowing the hosts to snatch a 24-22 lead with two tries, one of which was converted.

However, Banbury were awarded a final penalty and Phillips kept his cool to win the game.

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Have you taken on more than you should? Maybe so Aries, but what is clear is that you're tired and you need to plan something this week which you know replenishes you and recharges your batteries. Legal links can go in your favour if you play things by the rules and don't cut corners. Ring now to hear how people from your past hold the key to future opportunities in work.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

I know you want answers, but I also need you to know that a slow pace is the key to you finding out what can really be offered. To rush things and to push close ones for answers can only see mistakes being made. Education is well starred and this would be a good time to commit to further learning. Ring now to hear why I know you can embrace forced work changes.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Relationships have and continue to take their toll on you. It hasn't been easy for you to deal with all that has been going on, but you are nearly out the other side, so try to keep the faith. Sales and purchases go in your favour from Wednesday. You also learn that someone from your past is sad to have let you go. Ring now to hear why it is that I think they did you a very large favour.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

An alternative feel to your week should see you doing things you've never experienced before. A link to the past helps you feel as if you have come full circle regarding an emotional situation which wasn't under your control. A great week to kick bad habits and start healthier ones. Ring now to hear why it's worth saying yes to unusual get-togethers being offered.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

You are living for the moment, but that means you may not be thinking about other people's feelings. Stop and make a sensible game plan for the week ahead so that you can see and feel the balance and harmony you and your close ones need. Travel plans are laid for what could turn out to be the trip of a lifetime. Ring now so I can help you see what and who you need to love.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

An alternative feel of fire could see you accusing your close ones of things they have not done. Caution my friend, or they may decide to behave as the character you have cast them as. The home comes under the spotlight and can both cost and make you money over the course of the next four weeks. Ring now to hear how flirtations in work could soon become more personal.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

A financial set up will turn out to be a blessing in disguise and could actually help you to save money in the long run. Pride is stopping you from saying yes to something which, deep in your heart, you know you want to be more involved in. Take a breath and take a step away from those who are so heavily influencing you. Call now to utilise the quick thinking Mars can offer.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

You are approaching a much happier time in your life where you no longer worry what things look like to those around you. You are more concerned with how you and your close ones feel. Your ruling planet Saturn gives you the etiquette and class to deal with someone who has said and done things which split your circle. Ring now so I can give you a long term view on love and relationships.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

A surge of energy in your chart can and will see you looking for fun and mischief. A setback financially actually offers you the chance to see new ways you can occupy your time and you make a friend who likes you for you and not what you can buy them or lavish on them. Ring now to hear why it's worth touching base with faces you haven't seen since before the summer.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

A trip you were beginning to think would not happen is given the green light by someone you didn't think was 'on side'. Someone you thought you could trust in business may let you down this week, but their failure is your chance to show how much you can shine as you do what needs to be done with ease and confidence. Ring now to hear how large gatherings spark a romance.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Travel is the source of much excitement for you. Many of you Virgos will be faced with the chance to see things and places you've never seen before. A jealous mood on Thursday could see you saying things you will regret. Know when to bite your tongue. An ex wants something you do not need to give. Ring now to hear how the home is the centre for exciting announcements.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

The pressures you have been under in the home begin to lift. You start to feel more comfortable with dramatic announcements which were made. Try not to leave jobs half done or you will only leave yourself with no time to enjoy the fun which is on offer from Thursday. Your social circle widens and you get the chance to mix with more like-minded signs. Ring now to reveal more.

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The newly-built family home at Adderbury, main picture, the house on Cumonet Hill, right, and a typical David Wilson Homes bedroom, top right

Family home has views across nearby farmland

A NEWLY built family home in Adderbury backs on to farmland.

Number 39 Adderbury Fields, built by David Wilson Homes, includes 2,200 square feet of living space.

On the ground floor is a sitting room measuring 17ft by 15ft, a study, dining room and 23-foot kitchen/breakfast room. Upstairs are five bedrooms and three bathrooms.

Other highlights include views over surrounding countryside, south-facing gardens, a double garage and

By Gill Oliver

driveway parking. The house comes with flooring, blinds, curtains and light fittings and for existing home owners, part-exchange is available.

Patrick Murray, sales manager of agents Scottfraser, said: "Finished to an exceptional standard by the five-star developers David Wilson Homes, this attractive stone-built property is nestled on the edge of a desirable north Oxfordshire village, little more

than 40 minutes from Oxford.

"The property offers exceptional accommodation, with luxury interior including a gorgeous staircase, quality furnishings and wonderful rural views.

"In Adderbury there are a range of amenities, including a shop, hairdressers, choice of public houses, a magnificent parish church and schools for the primary age group, while there is a secondary school in nearby Bloxham."

The house is on the market at £850,000 through Scottfraser.

Another similar new home being marketed by the same agent is a semi-detached family home in Cumnor Hill. The property is described as having a high-specification finish, with underfloor heating, German-manufactured kitchen and aluminium double-glazed windows. Ranged over three floors, it includes a family room with bi-folding doors to the back garden, 19ft-kitchen

and separate living room on the ground floor. There are four bedrooms and three bathrooms spread across the other two levels. The house is priced at £950,000.

Mr Murray said: "This is an impressive new-build contemporary family home in a prestigious location on the edge of Oxford. It has a high-specification finish and Cumnor Hill is a sought-after area."

For more information call 01865 553900 or see scottfraser.co.uk.

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email propertyedit@nqo.com








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Banbury £950pcm

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- Dining/Room



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AVAILABLE NOW- A very cosy two bedroom cottage in a quiet location in Bloxham. £795

AVAILABLE NOW- A very cosy two bedroom cottage in a quiet location in Bloxham.

- Cottage
- Gardens
- Two Bedroom
- Quiet Area
- Quaint



Hook Norton £550

A one bedroom coach house apartment in Hook Norton village.

- Coach House
- Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Central Heating
- Village Location



Banbury £1,200

A deceptively spacious well presented family home in the sought after Hanwell Fields development.

- Town House
- Room
- Hanwell Fields
- Five Bedrooms
- Large Kitchen/ Family
- Two En-suites



Banbury £950

Four bedroom terraced home is situated in a popular residential area.

- End Terrace
- Shower Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Lounge/Dining Room



East End £700

A great two bedroom cottage in the heart of Hook Norton.

- Cottage
- Living Room
- Village Location
- Courtyard Garden
- Two Bedroom
- Allocated Parking



Banbury £1,200

LUXURY LIVING within a stone's throw of the hospital.

- Three Bedroom
- Throughout
- Detached
- New Kitchen/Diner
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- New Bathroom



Banbury £1,650pcm

An Executive Five bedroom detached home situated in the village of Twyford.

- Two Reception Rooms
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Double Garage



Banbury £650

Period 1 bed property located within the town centre.

- Period Terrace House
- Bathroom
- One Double Bedroom
- Off Road Parking
- Good Size Lounge



£700

A cosy little cottage nestled in the village of Hook Norton on a small development of just 4 cottages.

- Cottage
- Lounge
- Two Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Courtyard Garden
- Allocated Parking



Banbury £950

Ideal Family let in a quiet residential street.

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- Living room/diner
- Garage
- Rear garden with covered alfresco dining area

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Greatworth £350,000

If you are looking for a family home located in a sought after village then look no further!

- Detached
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Four Bedrooms
- Garage and Driveway
- Two Reception Rooms



Middleton Cheney £345,000

A deceptively spacious bungalow situated within the popular village of Middleton Cheney..

- Detached Bungalow
- Sun Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Beautiful Garden



Banbury Offers in Excess £210,000

A FANTASTIC INVESTMENT or first time buyer opportunity, Fully Refurbished.

- Town Centre
- Fully refurbished
- Period Townhouse
- Three Bedrooms



Thorpe Mandeville £239,950

Charming Country Cottage in the popular, village of Thorpe Mandeville

- Beautiful Character Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Popular Village
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fantastic Gardens



Banbury OIRO £227,000

IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

- Semi-Detached
- Large Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms



Greenhill Court £155,000

A well maintained ground floor apartment within walking distance of the town.

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking



Moreton Pinkey £330,000

An exceptionally presented village home built in 2011 by Heritage Grange.

- 3 bedrooms
- sunroom
- lounge
- Downstairs cloakroom
- kitchen / diner
- Bathroom



Banbury £375,000

A deceptively spacious detached bungalow on the sought after Timms Estate.

- Detached Bungalow
- En-suite
- Three Bedrooms
- Gardens
- Three Reception Rooms
- Garage and Driveway



Banbury £250,000

A mature semi-detached property in a popular residential location with Banbury.

- Semi-Detached
- Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Garden
- Garden Room



Banbury £400,000

An immaculately presented townhouse within the Cotswold town of Chipping Norton.

- Four Bedroom Townhouse
- Lounge
- Kitchen/ Dining
- Conservatory
- Garage and Driveway



Banbury £425,000

A real show stopper! Gives exceptional family living.

- Five Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Two Reception Rooms



Middleton Cheney £335,000

Detached bungalow which has been immaculately renovated.

- Three Bedrooms
- Garage and driveway
- Stunning lounge/diner
- Landscaped garden



Banbury £350,000

A GARDENERS DREAM!! Four bedroom detached family home sits in a substantial plot in Hardwick.

- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Cul-de-sac
- Large Plot



Banbury £650

Period 1 bed property located within in the town centre.

- Period Terrace House
- Bathroom
- One Double Bedroom
- Off Road Parking
- Good Size Lounge



Banbury £275,000

Immaculately presented 3 bedroom period townhouse situated.

- Three bedrooms
- Beautifully presented
- Period Property
- Large Garden

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301 Bretch Hill

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom refurbished house. The property comprises entrance hall; spacious kitchen / diner; living room; three bedrooms and family bathroom with bath and shower. There is driveway parking and a rear enclosed garden. EPC Rating D

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2 Kings Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom cottage situated in the village of Bloxham. The property benefits from one double bedroom and a second smaller bedroom / office. The bathroom contains a W/C and a shower. Good size kitchen and living room. Washing machine and fridge available. EPC rating C

750



Hollyhock Cottage

A new to the market spacious three bedroom property situated in the heart of the village of Bloxham. Available unfurnished immediately. Three double bedrooms. Separate utility area. Good size kitchen overlooking the garden and terrace ideal for entertaining. Very good access and walking distance to local shops; schools and bus routes.

950



15 Marshall Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market spacious two bedroom apartment situated conveniently within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises open plan kitchen / living room; two double bedrooms; master bedroom with ensuite. Separate bathroom with bath and shower. Allocated off road parking. The property is ideal for sharers or a professional couple. EPC Rating C

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